

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 13:17 as follows:

In the case being described here, it is assumed that after the occurrence of the power-on-reset signal POR, the same starting hash value SHV is set in the hash-value counting stage in all the transponders that are in communicating connection with the communication station. This need not necessarily be so, however, because it is also possible for, for example, a starting hash value SHV that is generated with a random number generator to be set in each transponder that is brought into communicating connection with the communication station (see, e.g., random number generator 40 in FIG. 1, shown by way of example).